

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination of Claims 1-4, 24-27, 33 and 34, which stand rejected in the Final Office Action mailed 06/16/2004 (Paper #11).

Claims 5-9 and 28 are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. As is discussed hereinafter the rejection has been overcome and U.S. Patent 6,460,120 B1 is no longer valid prior art. Therefore, the independent claims on which claims 5-9 and 28 depend are now allowable, thus making it unnecessary to write claims 5-9 and 28 in independent form.

The Examiner withdrew claims 29-32 as being drawn to a non-elected specie. As a result claims 29-32 were not examined and are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file these claims in a divisional application.


Claims 1-4, 24-27, 33 and 34 are rejected based upon U.S. Patent 6,460,120 B1. As stated by the Examiner the applied reference (U.S. Patent 6,460,120 B1) and the instant application have common inventors. Therefore, the rejection can be overcome by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventors of the present application.

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In response, Declarations, under 37 CFR 1.132, complying with the Examiner's statement are filed herewith. As a consequence the rejection is overcome and allowance of all the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joscelyn G. Cockburn".

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